

**Kent County Land Bank Review Subcommittee**  
**Thursday, May 12, 2016**

Members Present: Commissioners Mandy Bolter (Chair), Dave Bulkowski, Matt Kallman, Roger Morgan and Ted Vonk

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Assistant County Administrator Mary Swanson, Corporate Counsel Tom Dempsey, Treasurer Ken Parrish, Commissioner Carol Hennessy, Management Analyst Nathan Kark, Director Kent County Land Bank David Allen, Kent County Land Bank Administrative Assistant Ezekiel Mojica, and Sr. Administrative Specialist Marie Raymond

Media: None

Chair Bolter called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Chair Bolter initiated a welcome to all attendees.

Public Comment: None.

Ms. Swanson provided a review of the Kent County Land Bank Review Subcommittee's (KCLBR) mission and charge.

Ms. Swanson reviewed KCLBR's proposed work plan which was approved by the Commissioner members.

Mr. Dempsey presented an overview of land bank legislation, purpose and authority. A copy of Corporate Counsel's Overview of Land Bank Legislation memorandum is on file with the Board of Commissioners Office. Commissioners requested additional clarification of the foreclosure process, County and local units of government and public involvement, legality of the process, and the definition of public purpose. Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Parrish, Ms. Swanson and Mr. Allen assisted in providing clarification to the Commissioners questions. Ms. Swanson stated that the Administrator's Office will prepare and provide a flowchart of the foreclosure process to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Swanson gave an overview of the 2013 Land Bank Process Subcommittee Report and Recommendations, which is on file with the Board of Commissioners Office. The key findings included:

- The process was legal.
- Local neighborhood blight and instability were primarily local government (cities, villages, townships) concerns.
- Local governmental units which have planning, zoning and housing standards with demolition powers, and are likely to be the most knowledgeable about neighborhood

blight and instability in their jurisdictions, are best suited to identify and work with the Kent County Land Bank Authority (KCLBA) to address these local issues.

- Michigan's tax foreclosure law allows local governmental units (cities, villages and townships) to remove property from the tax foreclosure list to deal with public purpose concerns such as neighborhood blight and instability.

The recommendations (adopted by the Board of Commissioners on March 28, 2013) are:

- That the County resolve not to acquire properties and sell them to KCLBA prior to the public auction, unless the County has a direct interest and under special circumstances related to said properties; and
- That the KCLBA work with the local units of government within the County to acquire properties prior to the public auction.

Identifying specific questions and potential stakeholders was tabled until the next meeting after Mr. Allen's presentation.

(Mr. Kallman left at 10:40 a.m.)

In regard to the timeline, next steps, and meeting schedule, the KCLBR is scheduled to meet on May 26, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. (or immediately following the Board of Commissioners meeting) and then once per month as needed to fulfill the charge and proposed work plan. The Administrator's Office will work with Chair Bolter to determine the future meeting dates.

There being no other business to discuss, Chair Bolter adjourned the meeting at 10:45 am.

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